



## Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative

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### Social-Emotional Health Work Group - July 21, 2005

**Members Present:** Patti Bokony, Laura Butler, Bruce Cohen, Richard Hill, Lynn Lincoln, Ann Patterson, Anne Wells, and Deborah Gangluff.

### Agenda Item #1: Recommendations -Tiers QRS - Early Care and Education

**Discussion:** Patti led a discussion of our thinking as to our top six SEH issues for Tiered Quality.

- We noted that some of our recommendations are already being considered or included by other work groups.
- Our list will only focus on four quality elements that are unique to SEH issues, but we recognize that there is overlap. We would want the Quality Review group to consider the rest of our indicators as recommendations.
- We want to suggest strongly that an organization that has a formal staff survey and utilizes the data to make the ongoing process improvements as a key indicator of quality.
- As part of our discussion, Patti passed out quality indicators used by North Carolina and the Minnesota chapter of the NAEYC.

Ann Patterson talked about how to encourage and motivate the drive for quality. A tax credit for agencies that adhered to quality standards was mentioned.

We discussed how to gauge quality:

- One approach is to set a standard and evaluate programs against that standard

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- Another is to establish a baseline for each program and then evaluate their commitment to quality by looking at the ongoing progress against that baseline.

We had a discussion of behavior management.

We also discussed teacher standards and training: This had to do with requiring a specific degree for quality.

- One thread of our discussion was that we did not want to limit ourselves in terms of a specific degree and miss out on someone with a different degree but with excellent training received after their degree.
- It was also pointed out that a certified teacher may struggle if they don not have specific training in early childhood.

Ann Patterson noted that AR is looking at granting a Birth-5 license in lieu of a Pre-K license.

All members indicated they would be available to help advise on SEH issues for the group working on Quality.

We then merged with the Medical Home work group for the joint meeting.

